

**Submission  
No 8**

## **E-CIGARETTE REGULATION AND COMPLIANCE IN NEW SOUTH WALES**

**Name:** Mrs Ceres Kaing  
**Date Received:** 24 October 2023

## **Subject: Submission on current Vape Regulation**

Dear Committees,

I am writing to provide my input and perspective on the proposed regulations related to vaping products. I believe that vaping regulation is a critical issue that necessitates comprehensive consideration to ensure the safety and well-being of our community, particularly our youth. Below, I outline my concerns and recommendations on this matter.

### 1. Background:

Vaping has become increasingly popular, especially among teenagers and young adults. The rise in vaping has raised concerns about health risks associated with e-cigarettes, as well as the accessibility and appeal of vaping products to minors.

### 2. Health Concerns:

The health effects of vaping are still being studied, but there is evidence to suggest that vaping is far less harmful than smoking.

### 3. Access to Minors:

One of the most pressing issues is the accessibility of vaping products to minors. Stricter age verification measures and rigorous enforcement are crucial to prevent underage individuals from obtaining these products. I recommend implementing a comprehensive system that includes stringent age verification.

### 4. Public Education:

In conjunction with regulation, comprehensive public education campaigns are necessary to inform the public, especially young individuals, about the risks associated with vaping. The campaign should focus on schools, community centers, and online platforms.

### 5. Enforcement and Penalties:

Effective enforcement mechanisms and meaningful penalties for non-compliance are essential to deter retailers from selling vaping products to minors and to hold manufacturers accountable for producing safe products.

In addition, I would like to submit my views and recommendations regarding the legalization of nicotine in Australia. It is my belief that revisiting and potentially amending the current regulations on nicotine can have several benefits for public health and individual freedom. Below are the key points I would like to emphasize:

#### 1. Smoking Cessation:

Nicotine is widely recognized as one of the most addictive substances, and many individuals in Australia are struggling with nicotine addiction due to smoking. By legalizing nicotine and making it available through regulated channels, you can provide smokers with more accessible and potentially safer alternatives to help them quit smoking.

#### 2. Harm Reduction:

International research has shown that harm reduction strategies, such as vaping or using smokeless tobacco products, can be significantly less harmful than traditional smoking. Legalizing nicotine can

encourage smokers to switch to less harmful alternatives, potentially reducing the overall health burden on the Australian healthcare system.

### 3. Regulation and Safety:

Legalizing nicotine allows the government to regulate the quality and safety of nicotine-containing products. This can include setting standards for product ingredients, manufacturing processes, and packaging, thus reducing risks associated with poorly manufactured or unregulated products.

### 4. Individual Freedom:

Legal adults should have the autonomy to make informed decisions about their own health. By legalizing nicotine, you empower individuals to choose alternatives to smoking, respecting their autonomy and personal choices.

### 5. Reducing the Black Market:

Prohibitive nicotine regulations can inadvertently create a black market for nicotine-containing products. Legalization and regulation can help mitigate the illegal trade of such products.

### 6. Tax Revenue:

The taxation of nicotine-containing products can provide a source of revenue for public health initiatives and addiction treatment programs.

### 7. Public Education:

With the legalization of nicotine, it becomes imperative to launch comprehensive public education campaigns that inform the public about the relative risks, benefits, and responsible use of nicotine-containing products.

I urge you to consider revising the current regulatory framework surrounding nicotine in Australia in light of the above points. A thoughtful and evidence-based approach to nicotine regulation can significantly benefit public health while respecting individual choice.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I hope for a productive discussion and potential changes in nicotine regulation that will positively impact the health and well-being of Australians.

Sincerely,

Ceres Kaing